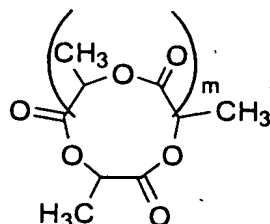


ABSTRACT

The object of the present invention is to provide a novel method for effectively producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer, and a cyclic lactic acid oligomer produced by the method. According to the present invention, there is provided a method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer represented by the following formula (1):



(1)

wherein m represents an integer of 1 to 30,

wherein lactides are polymerized in the presence of an alkali metal compound represented by the following formula (2):



wherein R represents an aliphatic group, aromatic group, $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^{10})(\text{R}^{11})(\text{R}^{12})$, $-\text{CH}(\text{R}^{20})\text{CONR}^{21}\text{R}^{22}$ or $-\text{CH}(\text{R}^{30})\text{COOR}^{31}$, wherein each of R^{10} , R^{11} and R^{12} independently represents an aliphatic or aromatic group, R^{20} represents an aliphatic group, each of R^{21} and R^{22} independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group, R^{30} represents an aliphatic group, and R^{31} represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group;

Y represents $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$ or $-\text{NR}^{40}-$, wherein R^{40} represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group; and

Me represents an alkali metal; and,

a cyclic lactic acid oligomer produced by the above production method.